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September 10, 1976

Acting Regional Director, Pacific Northwest Region

Environmental analysis of proposed test well for domestic water at
Craters of the Moon National Monument, Arco, Idaho

The existing water source(s) for the Monument consists of a series of four springs located at an elevation of about 7,000 feet in the upper part of the basin of Little Cottonwood Creek. The springs have been developed and boxed in with pipes leading to a central collecting box and then to the Monument water system via a six-inch main.

The yield measured by the Geological Survey in 1957 and 1960 varied from 48 gpm (1957) to 86 gpm (1960). The yield falls short of the demand during some dry periods, especially in August when park use is highest.

The spring water is moderately hard, but the quality is good with a low dissolved solids content.

Turbidity monitoring and possible treatment for high turbidity will be required beginning in June, 1977.

To provide park personnel and visitors with sufficient water of good quality which will meet the new Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) water quality standards, the following alternative actions were considered.

1. Complete treatment of the surface water sources and/or filtration to reduce turbidity to less than one Jackson Unit.
2. Discontinue water service to the public while providing a minimum service to park employees so that the water system will be classified as non-public and not covered by the EPA water quality standards.
3. Haul water to supplement the spring water when needed.
4. Develop ground water with a well, or wells, to supply all water needs.

Alternative 1--This is estimated to be more costly than wells. It would also have a higher visual impact, since some kind of physical plant or maintenance building would be required to house the treatment equipment.

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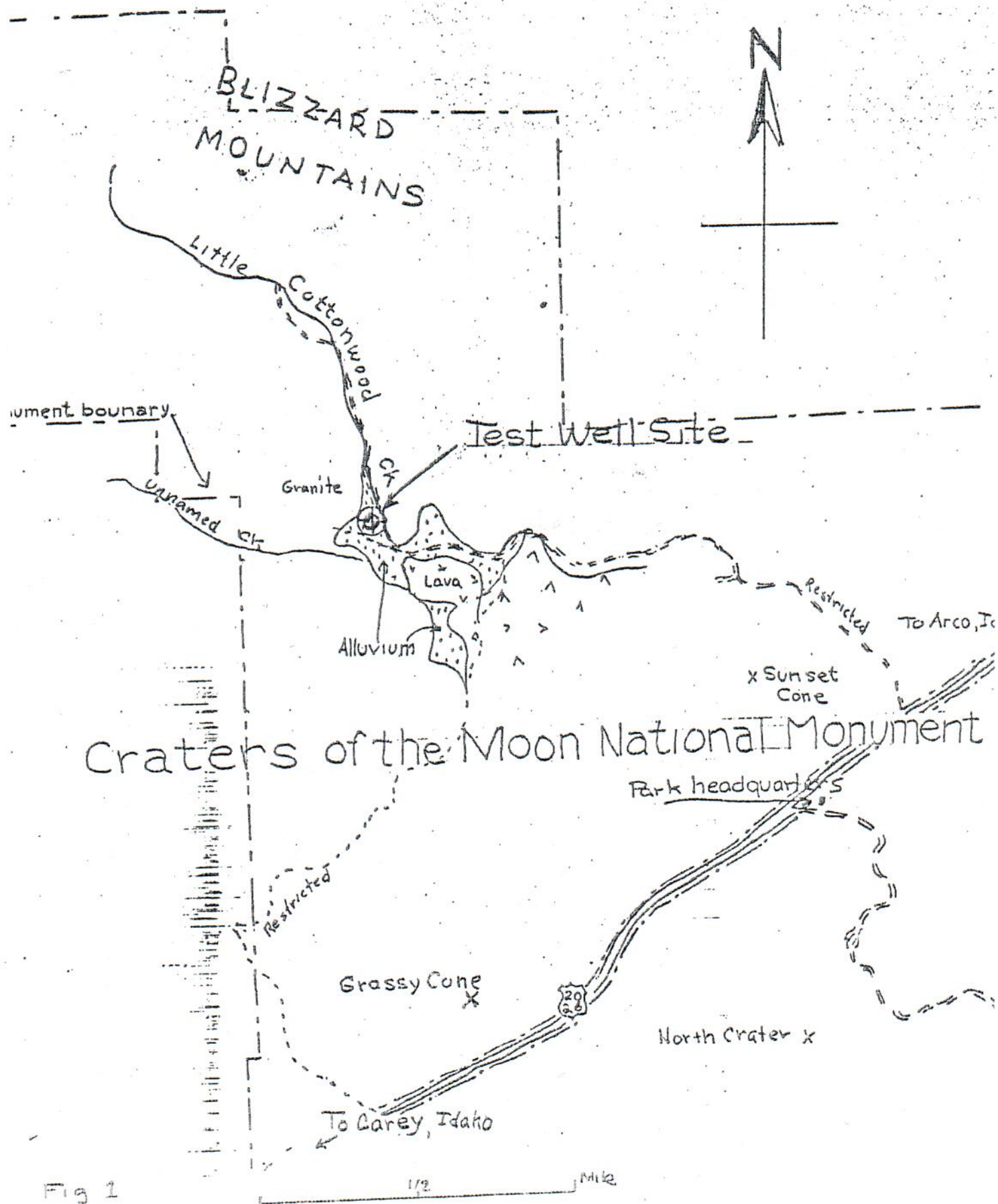


Fig 1